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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Lord God, our hope for years to come, make us today a channel through which Your love and grace may flow. Empower us to live exemplary lives that will compel others to glorify You. When we confront adversaries, give us love and forbearance. Strengthen us to go beyond the minimum in service to others.

Inspire our Senators with Your presence. Teach them to press their weaknesses close to Your strength, that they may find light in darkness, courage for life's battles, and endurance for life's pains.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNETT thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will conduct a period of morning business with the time equally divided until 12:30. At 12:30, we will begin the debate on the three bills related to stem cell research, and we will have debate throughout the day and tomorrow, with the time alternating between the majority and minority in 30-minute increments, and then proceed to stacked votes tomorrow afternoon at 3:45. Each of these votes will require 60 votes for passage. The votes on Tuesday will be the first votes of the week.

On Friday, we were able to reach an agreement on the Water Resources Development Act, and Chairman INHOFE will be managing the floor consideration of that bill on Tuesday and Wednesday.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the next 2 days we will be discussing the

issues surrounding stem cell research and discussing a total of three bills over the course of 48 hours. Our discussion over the next 2 days will focus on science and on ethics and how science and ethics interplay.

Science: We are in a remarkable era of exciting and rapidly accelerating advances in developmental biology. New doors of exploration have been thrown wide open by the Human Genome Project and by our new knowledge and our new understanding of molecular and cellular mechanisms. Some have called this 21st century the century of cells—a century that will explode with regenerative medicine so that heart surgeon BILL FRIST will no longer have to cut out a diseased heart and replace that diseased heart with a healthy heart but would rather treat a patient with cells requiring no surgery.

We are going to be discussing ethics. Although not easy, we do have to confront head-on the difficult issues around life's beginnings, all of which have large scientific, moral, and religious implications. The rapidly advancing science has taken us to today's debate.

As we will see in our discussions on the floor of the Senate, it is safe to say that no scientific issue is more divisive today than this discussion surrounding stem cells. As others have said, you can't do an end run around all of these ethical challenges. They are before us, and they are going to come with increasing frequency with advancing science. Our responsibility as policymakers is, through deliberation and through dialog and through debate, to frame those moral principles which protect and defend human dignity and promote scientific advances and medical applications that will lead to healing.

In the last century, we faced ethical controversies over organ transplantation, my field: Who would receive a scarce organ? What are the criteria to determine brain death? We had ethical

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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